

Claims:

1. A semi-drying method of a washing machine comprising:
dehydrating cloth by centrifugal force by rotating a washing tub at an
increasing dehydration speed, step-by-step, until the dehydration speed of the
5 washing tub reaches a designated speed, said dehydration of the cloth being
repeated plural times; and
disentangling cloth by agitatedly rotating the washing tub prior to the next
dehydration of the cloth by way of the repetition of the dehydration.
2. The semi-drying method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the final
10 dehydration speed of the washing tub is higher than the preceding dehydration
speed of the washing tub in each of the repeated dehydrations of the cloth.
3. The semi-drying method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the
initial dehydration speed of the washing tub in each of the repeated dehydrations of
the cloth is higher than the initial dehydration speed of the washing tub in the
15 preceding dehydration of the cloth.
4. The semi-drying method as set forth in claim 1, wherein each of
the repeated dehydrations of the cloth includes:
pre-dehydrating the cloth by rotating the washing tub at a designated
dehydration speed; and

main-dehydrating the cloth after the pre-dehydration of the cloth by rotating the washing tub at a dehydration speed higher than that of the pre-dehydration of the cloth.

5. The semi-drying method as set forth in claim 4, wherein the dehydration speed of the washing tub is increased step-by-step in the main-dehydration of the cloth.

6. The semi-drying method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the disentanglement of the cloth is repeated plural times until the eccentricity of the cloth is less than a designated value.

10 7. The semi-drying method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising finally disentangling cloth after the repetition of the dehydration of the cloth is completed.

15 8. The semi-drying method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the disentanglement of the cloth is performed one more time prior to the dehydration of the cloth so that the cloth is disentangled before the cloth is dehydrated.

9. The semi-drying method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the duty value of a motor for rotating the washing tub is gradually increased during the repetition of the disentanglement of the cloth plural times.

10. The semi-drying method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising sensing a quantity of the cloth put into the washing tub prior to the dehydration of the cloth.

11. The semi-drying method as set forth in claim 10, wherein:

5 the dehydration of the cloth is performed when it is determined that the sensed quantity of the cloth is less than a predetermined value in the sensing of the quantity of the cloth; and

the operation of the washing machine is stopped and an alarm indicating the excessive quantity of the cloth may be raised when it is determined that the 10 sensed quantity of the cloth exceeds the predetermined value in the sensing of the quantity of the cloth.

12. The semi-drying method as set forth in claim 10, further comprising initially disentangling the cloth so that the cloth is disentangled prior to the sense of the quantity of the cloth.

15 13. The semi-drying method as set forth in claim 10, wherein the duty value of a motor for rotating the washing tub in the initial-disentanglement of the cloth is smaller than the duty value of the motor in the disentanglement of the cloth.

14. A control apparatus for controlling a semi-drying method of a washing machine, comprising:

an operating unit for inputting a selected washing method to the control apparatus therethrough and displaying a washing state based on the selected 5 washing method thereon; and

time setting means provided on the operating unit for setting a duration of a semi-drying operation, in which dehydration and disentanglement of cloth are repeated plural times so that the cloth is dehydrated to a designated degree.

15. The control apparatus as set forth in claim 14, wherein the 10 operating unit includes a semi-dry state display for displaying the remaining time of the duration of the semi-drying operation when the semi-drying operation is started.

16. A ventilating structure of a washing machine for performing a semi-drying operation, comprising:

15 a door provided with ventilating holes for ventilating a washing tub during the semi-drying operation, in which dehydration and disentanglement of cloth in the washing tub are repeated plural times to dehydrate the cloth to a designated degree;

20 a cover installed on the door for opening or closing the ventilating holes; and

regular ventilating means for ventilating the washing tub through the

ventilating holes even when the ventilating holes are covered with the cover.

17. The ventilating structure as set forth in claim 16, wherein the diameter of each of the ventilating holes is gradually narrowed from the outer surface of the washing tub to the inner surface of the washing tub.

5 18. The ventilating structure as set forth in claim 16, wherein a filter for filtering out dust from air passing through the ventilating holes is installed on the door.

10 19. The ventilating structure as set forth in claim 16, wherein:
and
the filter includes a filter grip for facilitating the installation of the filter;
the filter grip has a designated height for supporting the cover when the ventilating holes are covered with the cover.

20. The ventilating structure as set forth in claim 16, wherein the cover includes antiskid means for preventing a user's hand from sliding on the cover
15 when the user grasps the cover.

21. The ventilating structure as set forth in claim 16, wherein hinge means for rotating the cover in the inward and outward direction of the washing machine is formed between the cover and the door.

22. The ventilating structure as set forth in claim 21, wherein the hinge means includes:

first bosses, each of which is installed on the door and provided with a pin;
second bosses, each of which is installed on the cover and provided with a
5 groove having a partially cut-off portion for rotatably receiving or releasing the pin;
and
supporting members, each of which is provided on the corresponding one
of the second bosses, and locked with the corresponding one of the first bosses when
the cover is opened from the door by a designated angle or more to separate the pin
10 from the groove.

23. The ventilating structure as set forth in claim 16, wherein a hook
is formed on the cover, and is inserted into a hook hole formed in the door to lock
the cover into the door when the ventilating holes are covered with the cover.

24. The ventilating structure as set forth in claim 16, wherein the
15 regular ventilating means is obtained by causing a portion of the rim provided on the
inner surface of the cover to have a length from the cover smaller than those of other
portions of the rim.

25. The ventilating structure as set forth in claim 24, wherein:
a backing-up member for supporting the cover, when the ventilating holes

are covered with the cover, is formed on the door; and

the rim is protruded from the cover by a designated length so that a designated cleavage between the rim and the door is maintained when the ventilating holes are covered with the cover.

5 26. The ventilating structure as set forth in claim 24, wherein:

locking means for maintaining the covering of the ventilating holes with the cover is provided between the cover and the door; and

10 the rim protruded from the cover has a length longer than the distance between the door and the cover when the ventilating holes are covered with the cover so that the door compresses the rim when the ventilating holes are covered with the cover.

27. A ventilating structure of a washing machine for performing a semi-drying operation, comprising:

15 a door provided with ventilating holes;
a cover installed on the door for opening or closing the ventilating holes;
and

regular ventilating means for ventilating the washing tub through the ventilating holes even when the ventilating holes are covered with the cover.

28. The ventilating structure as set forth in claim 27, wherein the
20 regular ventilating means is obtained by causing a portion of the rim provided on the

inner surface of the cover to have a length from the cover smaller than those of other portions of the rim.